

A 2D GUN DOUBTED IN SIRHAN ATTACK

Kennedy Ballistic Tests Are
Called Accurate on Coast

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LOS ANGELES, Oct. 18. — Los Angeles County District Attorney Joseph P. Busch today cleared a police ballistics expert of charges that he improperly conducted ballistics tests in connection with the assassination of Robert F. Kennedy.

The vindication of DeWayne Wolfer, of the Los Angeles Police Department, weakened speculation that a second gun was involved in the 1968 shooting.

Mr. Busch, at the conclusion of a four-month independent investigation, agreed, however, with a county grand jury that has accused County Clerk William G. Sharp of "lax handling" of the evidence against the convicted slayer, Sirhan B. Sirhan.

Charges that Mr. Wolfer testified the wrong gun and otherwise improperly performed the ballistics tests were brought May 28 by Barbara Warner Blehr, a lawyer. Mrs. Blehr made the charges in a letter to the City Civil Service Commission, urging that Mr. Wolfer not be promoted as director of the police department's criminal laboratory.

"Our investigation revealed only that Mr. Wolfer made a clerical error in labeling the trial exhibit envelope containing three bullets test-fired by him from the gun wrenched out of Sirhan's hand at the assassination scene," Mr. Busch said today at a news conference. "There is no evidence that another gun was involved."

"The mislabeled envelope in no way detracts from the salient reality that the murder verdict returned was just and correct."

"I still am totally convinced beyond any doubt," the District Attorney said, "that Sirhan Bishara Sirhan killed Senator Robert F. Kennedy — he and only he, alone."

Sirhan is awaiting execution in San Quentin Prison. Confusion over the handling of the Sirhan gun gave credence to a theory that Senator Kennedy might have been killed by bullets from a gun other than Sirhan's.

"There is no new evidence that would substantiate any two-gun theory," Mr. Busch declared.

Officials in the County Clerk's office had been criticized for

letting unauthorized persons handle evidence and for losing copies of some of Sirhan's notebooks.

Mr. Busch said today that "the integrity of the trial exhibits" had not been properly protected in the County Clerk's office. County Supervisors have ordered an investigation of the office.

On June 5, 1968, Senator Kennedy was shot in a pantry of the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles shortly after claiming victory in the California Presidential primary. He died a day later. Sirhan was convicted and sentenced to death April 17, 1969.